

**Fernald Closure Project**  
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**Fluor Fernald**

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**Contaminated Soil Removal Complete Under  
Former Production Buildings**

CINCINNATI – The Department of Energy's Fernald Closure Project (FCP) announced today that its contractor, Fluor Fernald, has successfully completed soil cleanup of 56 acres in the heart of the site's former uranium production area. Prior to environmental cleanup, this area contained the buildings used to produce 500 million pounds of uranium metal from 1952-1989 and some of the site's most contaminated soils. Both Ohio and U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies concur with the certification reports documenting achievement of the soil clean-up goals. An additional 40 acres of land surrounding this area were held back as a buffer area for storm water controls. Soil certification for these 40 acres will be completed soon, opening the door for final restoration in this portion of the site including final grading, creation of wetlands and prairie development.

During the course of 40 years of uranium metal production, a majority of the soil around and beneath this area, equivalent to 10 city blocks in downtown Cincinnati, became both chemically and radioactively contaminated. Pre-remediation levels of uranium contamination in the soil ranged from just above the cleanup target level of 20 parts-per-million (ppm) to 76,400 ppm, with flashes of uranium product reaching levels of 850,000-ppm. Not only did the project meet the 20 ppm standard but in most cases the soil is closer to the average background uranium concentration of 4 - 6 ppm typically found in this region.

"This is clearly a major step in the cleanup of Fernald, especially considering the original levels of contamination and the amount of soil removed," said Graham Mitchell, Ohio EPA.

In November 2000 the Department of Energy and Fluor Fernald began the massive effort of removing contaminated building foundations and soil from the production area footprint. In some cases excavation crews chased veins of contamination as deep as 30 feet. Eventually 1,363,000 cubic yards of dirt and debris were removed from the area or enough material to raise the turf of two football fields 32 stories high. Following an approved and rigorous waste acceptance process, the majority of the

excavated soil and building debris were safely placed in Fernald's On-Site Disposal Facility.

"People need to appreciate what a significant accomplishment this is. A great deal of planning, design and regulatory/public interaction was required. All the people involved in this effort can be very proud of their accomplishments," said DOE-Fernald Director Johnny Reising.

More than 750 acres of the FCP are now certified clean. Once all restoration work is complete the Fernald property will include approximately 80 acres of wetlands, 60 acres of ponds and almost 400 acres of prairie in addition to the existing woodlands that are prevalent across the site.

Fernald workers are close to completing material processing and shipping from the K-65 Silos (Silos 1 and 2) and Silo 3. Both of these projects are expected to end in the next two months. Once these efforts wrap up it will clear the way for remaining building demolition, soil removal, certification, restoration and ultimately site closure. The DOE's Office of Legacy Management will be responsible for the long-term care of the site once cleanup is complete.

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